

What is claimed is:

1. An image storage and display system comprising an image server storing image data recorded on a high readout-speed capable storage medium, and a display terminal connected to said image server via a network, wherein;

said image server is provided with a storage control means that creates reversible compressed image data of the original image data, and at least one irreversible compressed image data, and stores in said storage medium said original image data, said reversible compressed image data, and said at least one irreversible compressed image data, which stand for the multiple versions of image data, and

said display terminal is provided with an input means capable of receiving specification of the version of the image data or the image data group to be displayed on said display terminal, and an acquisition means for acquiring the version of said image data or said image data group received in said input means.

2. An image storage and display system according to claim 1 in which said storage control means is capable of changing the compression ratio of said irreversible compressed image data.

3. An image storage and display system according to claim 1 or 2, wherein;

said input means is capable of receive specification of the version of image data as the image quality and/or image usage purpose represented by each version of said image data, and

said storage control means assigns to each version a parameter or parameters representing the image quality and/or image usage purpose represented by said each version of image data, and stores said each version of image data in the storage medium, and

said acquisition means acquires the version of image data corresponding to the desired image quality and/or image usage purpose received in the input means.

4. An image storage and display system according to claim 1 or 2, wherein;

for cases in which said image data group is to be acquired, said input means is capable of receiving specification of the version thereof as the image quality and/or image usage purpose of each examination or series specified by said image data group, and

said storage control means assigns to each version of said image data a parameter or parameters representing the image quality and/or image usage purpose of each examination or series specified by said image data group, and stores each said version of image data in the storage medium, and

said acquisition means acquires the version of said image data group corresponding to the image quality and/or image usage purpose of each desired examination or series received in said input means.

5. An image storage and display system according to claim 1 or 2, wherein;

said storage control means obtains said irreversible compressed image data by subjecting said original image data to a progressively extractable data-compression process, and

said acquisition means, for cases in which the version received in said input means corresponds to irreversible compressed image data, changes the progressive expansion level of said irreversible compressed image data, according to the predetermined conditions, and acquires said irreversible compressed image data.

6. An image storage and display system according to claim 1 or 2, wherein;

said storage control means stores in said storage medium said multiple versions of image data along with the original image data diagnostic information, and

said acquisition means acquires the versions of image data and image data groups along with said diagnosis information received in said input means.

7. An image storage and display system according to claim 1 or 2, wherein;

said image server is provided with a diagnosis-status management means for managing the diagnosis status of said original image data, and

said storage control means controls, according to said diagnostic status, which versions of image data are acquired at said display terminal.

8. An image storage and display system according to claim

1 or 2, wherein;

said image server is provided with an other storage medium
in addition to the high readout-speed capable storage medium,
and

5 said storage control means deletes the original image data
and the reversible compressed image data from the high
readout-speed capable storage medium after a predetermined
period of time has elapsed, and stores said original image data
and said reversible compressed image data in said other storage
10 medium.

9. An image storage and display system according to claim
1 or 2, wherein;

said image server is provided with an other storage medium
in addition to the high readout-speed capable storage medium,
15 and

said storage control means stores all versions of image
data in both said high readout-speed capable storage medium and
said other storage medium, and deletes the original image data
and the reversible compressed image data from said high
20 readout-speed capable storage medium after a predetermined
period of time has elapsed,

10. An image storage and display system according to claim
1 or 2, wherein;

said image server is provided with an other storage medium
25 in addition to the high readout-speed capable storage medium,
and

said storage control means stores all versions of image data in
said high readout-speed capable storage medium, stores said
irreversible compressed image data in said other storage medium,
and deletes said original image data or reversible compressed
5 image data from said high readout-speed capable storage medium
after a predetermined period of time has elapsed.

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